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the owners of vessels in Newport in 1762; a statement of the exports of Philadelphia; the genealogy of the Gardiner family; the number and sizes of houses in different towns; the numbers of Indians, the size and plans of different Indian wigwams; vital statistics; lists of ministers in New Jersey, and lists of physicians in Connecticut; prices of various food stuffs and of clothing; numbers and lists of baptisms, burials, and marriages; many items on church questions and doctrines, and many notes on education, which naturally refer mainly to Yale, but among which are some memoranda that are worth while about Princeton and the university of Pennsylvania.

That anyone should be willing to take all the trouble necessary to ascertain such things and keep a record of them is surprising, but fortunately there are such persons and the results of their curiosity and industry benefit students of later generations. Most of these items, as indicated by the extract from the preface, are of local interest, but many have a general historical value. There is little of peculiar interest to the west. Some interesting figures on land investments and values, though not in the west, are given; there is "A list of the forts upon the River Alleginie now belonging to the French;" and a letter from Samuel H. Parsons, of April, 1786, describes the "big bone lick" in Kentucky which he had visited during the previous winter.

An excellent index, complete as to names, should prove of great service.

MAX FARRAND

The female review (*Life of Deborah Sampson, the female soldier.*) By H. Mann (1797). With an introduction and notes by John Adams Vinton. [Reprinted as the *Magazine of history with notes and queries*, extra number, no. 47] (Tarrytown, N. Y.: William Abbatt, 1916. 191 p. \$5.00)

At this time when the Russian women's "legion of death" stirs the imagination, the *Life of Deborah Sampson*, "the only woman serving as a soldier, known to our army until 1861-1865," is read with greater interest. She enlisted in Washington's army, served one year and five months, faithfully performed her duties as a soldier, took part in several engagements, and was wounded, all without betraying her sex.

The biography contains many interesting side lights on the life of the times, in the home, in the town, and in camp, and these are supplemented by the present editor in lengthy footnotes. The verbose and grandiloquent style of the editor of the original edition of 1797 detracts much from the real merit of the story, and no amount of editing can overcome it. The present edition follows the rare original of 1797 and its reprint of 1866, with copious notes and comparisons from the enlarged manu-

script copy completed in 1850 by Herman Mann, and from contemporary newspapers and state documents. There are many discrepancies between the two editions and even between the heroine's signed statements, but every statement of fact down to the smallest detail has been carefully checked. The editor conclusively proves that the main incidents of the biography are authentic history, and as some of them in the past have been open to serious doubt he has by his demonstration performed a real service to students of the revolutionary period.

The book makes a good appearance. It is printed on paper of excellent quality, with wide margins; and it has a heavy paper cover. There are 191 pages, including the editor's preface and introduction in which he states the problems that have confronted him, a preface and an appendix by the original editor, and a small index. Neither as a biography nor as a history can the book rank very high, but the editor has done his work so well that it will never have to be done again.

RUTH E. HODSDON

Mexican war diary of George B. McClellan. Edited by William Starr Myers, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and politics, Princeton university. (Princeton: Princeton university press, London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford university press, 1917. 93 p. \$1.00 net)

As a bit of first-hand evidence in favor of military preparedness this war diary is timely. It will likewise have a certain value for its self-revelation of the writer, later the general who was so captious toward associates and superiors, so beloved by his soldiers. One welcomes the brief, hasty, boyish, and at times uncharitable characterizations of our Mexican war generals, for they will serve as a necessary corrective to previous misconceptions. McClellan was a severe critic of the American volunteer in the forties, and justly so. Our civilian recruits did not gain the favor of either friend or foe, and their officers were even less successful. McClellan's testimony concerning both volunteer soldier and officer is abundantly supported by the testimony of Grant and Meade, upon whom the editor has frequently drawn for information supplied in his footnotes. The description of campaigning on the border reads well in contrast with present conditions. Noting the frequency of hard drinking among the officers, one wonders if the demoralization of the volunteer was not largely due to this cause. The diary gives an interesting picture of individual happenings in camp, on the march, and occasionally on the battle line, but there is no attempt to give the wider setting of campaigns. Obviously a boy of twenty could not give that, nor did he have good facilities for intimate sketches of the army leaders. But the